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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

WOMBWELL :
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Thornhill House,
DARFIELD,
Near Barnsley.

October, 1946.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Medical Report of the health and social conditions of your Urban District for the year 1945. On the whole the report presents a favourable picture, although there are one or two aspects to which, respectfully, I would draw your attention.

On the credit side, the estimated population has increased by nearly forty. The number of births has maintained the high level of 1944 (125), the local birth rate being nearly 30% higher than the national birth rate. It is a matter of regret (and at the same time of still greater determination to push the housing drive) that many of these newly born inhabitants were born as "lodgers." The positive housing results of 1946 should lessen the number of children born without a real home of their own.

In the matter of control of infectious diseases, your urban district can congratulate itself as being one of the most immunisation-conscious districts in the whole country. The labours in this respect of the County Council Health Visitor have borne much fruit. The district was also fortunate in the fact that a wave of measles left little permanent ill-health in its wake. This was due in the main to the common-sense collaboration of the majority of mothers. Diphtheria and scarlet fever were under good control. There were slightly fewer new cases of notified tuberculosis in the year.

The main item of the "debit" side to which I must point is the fact that during the year 12 infants below the age of one year died. This compares very unfavourably with a figure of 4 in 1944. It is true that the majority of these deaths were due to factors over which we have doubtful control - e.g. congenital feebleness, prematurity - or no control at all (congenital malformation) - yet the fact remains and is worthy of the attention of all concerned, mothers, nurses, clinics, doctors, local authorities.

Two other items worthy of note : the ambulance service still is rudimentary both in its staffing numbers and quality of vehicles ; more and more dependence is having to be placed on private-hire taxi services as a substitute for a comprehensive County Ambulance System. Again, it will not have escaped your attention that the houses, which, in 1939, were in need of structural repairs to make them sanitarily efficient, are still in 1946 largely needing the same repairs with a much greater degree of urgency. True, it is nice to have a roof of one's own overhead, but in many cases in the district this often-leaking roof covers damp bedrooms, unlighted stair-cases, broken sinks and rudimentarily hot-water systems with consequent lack of proper personal and domestic washing facilities. I feel confident that these matters are constantly in your thoughts and that coincidental with the drive for new houses, there will be a drive for the betterment of existing houses.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

J. W. WHITWORTH,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR 1945.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area.

The area of the district is 2,018 acres.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population at the middle of the year is 5,740.

Population for 1943	...	...	...	...	5,529
Population for 1944	...	...	...	...	5,703
Population for 1945	...	...	...	...	5,740

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 1671.

Rateable Value.

The rateable value of the district at the 1st of April was £21,079-0-0d.

The product of a Penny Rate (net) was £83-12-11d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS :

			Males	Females	Total
Live Births.					
Legitimate	...	...	62	56	118
Illegitimate	...	...	5	2	7
Totals	...	...	67	58	125

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population was 21.17.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales was 16.10.

STILL BIRTHS.

Still-Births.			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	3	—	3
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	3	—	3

Still-Birth rate per 1,000 population for Darfield was ... 0.52

Still-birth rate per 1,000 population, England and Wales 0.46

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered during 1945 was 73.

Male deaths 45

Female Deaths 28

This total is two more than in 1944.

Death Rate per 1,000 population for Darfield was ... 12.71

Death Rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales 11.40

Particulars of the causes of deaths are contained in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Causes of Deaths during 1945.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Tuberculosis	4	2	6
Other forms of T.B.	—	1	1
Influenza	—	1	1
Cancer	8	5	13
Diabetes	—	3	3
Intra Cranial Vascular lesions	6	—	6
Heart Disease	8	8	16
Other Dis. of Circ syst.	2	1	3
Bronchitis	1	—	1
Pneumonia	4	—	4
Other respiratory diseases	—	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	3	—	3
Other digestive diseases	—	1	1
Nephritis	1	—	1
Premature Birth	—	1	1
Con. mal., birth inj.	3	2	5
Violent causes	1	—	1
All other causes.	3	2	5
Totals ...	45	28	73

Infantile Mortality.

There were twelve deaths during the year of infants under the age of one year.

This is a great increase above the figures of the last two years (4 in 1944) and a great disappointment. Expressed in terms of a rate per 1,000 live births it is far larger than the figure for England and Wales, viz :—

Infantile Mortality Rate for Darfield	... ..	96
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales	... ..	46

Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths due to Maternal causes recorded during the year.

Medical Services.

The Medical Services and Clinics have continued unchanged during the year.

Ambulance Service.

The arrangements made by the West Riding County Council for the continuation of the A.R.P. service from the Hoyland Depot have remained unaltered during the year.

The type of vehicle used (open ended adapted vans) are not of the highest standard and although alternative schemes and proposals have been considered the efforts, so far, have been abortive.

Blood Transfusion.

The district responded reasonably well to the appeal for blood donors during the year, although it is noticeable that, now the war is over, there is not quite the same eager rush to donate blood. The need for blood is very real and urgent.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified during the year was 15. This is an increase of seven over the 1944 figure and five more than in 1943.

Diphtheria.

Three cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. This is an increase of one over the figures of the last two years.

Immunisation.

65 children in the 1—5 years age group, 27 children of school age (5+) were immunised at the clinic and schools during the year. At June 30th, 1945, it is estimated that the percentage of immunised children were: under five years 58% ; over five years 95%.

Pneumonia.

Three cases of pneumonia were notified during the year, as against four in 1944 and 23 in 1943.

The incidence of other notifiable diseases is given in the Table 2.

TABLE 2.
Infectious Diseases Notified.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Tuberculosis during the year 1945.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis during the year was 8 compared with 11 in 1944 and 9 in 1943.

The number of deaths from this cause was 7.

Details are given in Table 3.

TABLE 3.

Tuberculosis Cases notified during the year 1945.

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respirat'y		Non-Respirat'y		Respirat'y		Non-Respirat'y	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
1	...	=	=	=	1	=	=	=	=
5	...	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
15	...	=	2	=	=	1	1	=	=
25	...	=	2	=	1	1	=	=	=
35	...	=	=	=	=	1	=	=	1
45	...	=	1	=	=	=	1	=	=
55	...	1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
65 and upwards	...	=	=	=	=	1	=	=	=
Totals	...	1	5	=	2	4	2	=	1

